



Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
Economic Development Corporation

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Mr. Michael K. Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. S.W.
Washington DC 20554

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administration Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Powell,

On September 19, 2002 at the 49th Annual Meeting of The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Resolution Number 02-67 was passed, Nomination to Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors. This resolution nominates Cheryl Johnson, Tribal Telephone Outreach Coordinator to represent low income consumers. The Tribal Telephone Outreach Program is administered by the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians - Economic Development Corporation (ATNI-EDC). ATNI-EDC is a non profit advocacy organization based in Washington State. ATNI the parent organization has a membership of 59 tribes from Oregon Washington Idaho Western Montana Northern California and some Alaska Native Corporations. Although we are regionally based we feel the issues we address benefit all of Indian Country. We work collectively and collaboratively with local, regional and national Indian organizations and other non profits.

Our Tribal Telephone Outreach Program is a consumer advocacy program that is a model for Indian Country. We have two advocates who work with the tribes of Washington State. The programs goal is to increase knowledge of consumer rights as they relate to telecommunication services and increase phone penetration rates on tribal lands. We are part of a coalition of non profits focusing on these issues for low income consumers. Each non profit has their target community to work with. Our staff is training at least one, hopefully more tribal staff on the enhanced lifeline and linkup program for tribal lands at each reservation. We train on the state program Washington Telephone Assistance at tribal locations with no land base. We will provide backup and regional support for the staff, provide a resource center with the data we have collected and the documents and brochures we have created at our main office.

Impacting and influencing changes in policy is another goal and to that end we have participated in relevant public hearing and comment filings locally, regionally and nationally. We have an excellent working relationship with the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission and the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Division of the Federal Communications Commission. We recently co-hosted a meeting with K Dane Snowden and Kris Monteith at the Chehalis Tribe.

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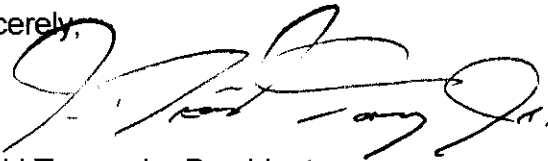
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October 3, 2002

As the Chairman of the Board of Directors of ATNI-EDC, I have been authorized by resolution number 02-67 to sign the nomination letter on behalf of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians. ATNI nominates Cheryl Johnson as a representative for low income consumers to the USAC board. Cheryl is one of the Tribal Telephone Outreach Coordinators for ATNI-EDC. She is a member of the Lummi Nation and has served her people and Indian Country as a leader and advocate. Her work at ATNI-EDC combined with her prior experience as a tribal leader and policy maker has made her an asset to our organization and we feel her perspective would be beneficial for all low income consumers on the USAC Board. Cheryl has also been on panel presentations at the ITTI – Doing Business in Indian Country, and the National Summit on Emerging Tribal Economies panel on Telecom Day.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Tovey, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

David Tovey, Jr., President
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians – Economic Development Corporation



Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

Economic Development Corporation

Cheryl Johnson – Tribal Telephone Services Outreach Coordinator

Ms. Johnson (**Lummi Nation**) has worked in the technology field for 17 years with federal government, private sector and tribal government entities. Her positions have always focused on customer service and assisting people to do their jobs better by using technology. Most of her job experience has been off the "rez" and after moving home to Lummi, she quickly saw that the Lummi Reservation was living the "digital divide". In January of 1999 she ran for a position on the Lummi Indian Business Council (LIBC), the tribal government body comprised of 11 tribal members. The LIBC provides policy guidance and decisions for the Lummi Nation and its people. Ms Johnson served one three year term. She served as the Chair of the Telecommunication and Technology Committee, Board Member of the Lummi Water and Sewer Board, member of the council-formed Economic Development Task Force and Secretary/Treasurer of the Lummi Commercial Company. Her main interest has been to complete the assessment and implementation of a Telecommunication solution for the Nations members and tribes overall economic goals. She continues to work on this project for the Nation as a member of the Lummi Development Authority (LDA). The LDA oversees all economic development activities of the nation.

Ms. Johnson is one of two outreach coordinators at ATNI-EDC that are based at the Lummi Reservation and Makah Reservation. The Tribal Telephone Outreach program has collaborated with several consumer advocacy programs that received funding from a settlement fund established from a lawsuit filed against Qwest by the State of Washington for overcharging their customers. The Tribal Telephone Outreach program is developing a consumer education model for the tribes of Washington State on basic telephone service, consumer rights and increasing participation in the enhanced lifeline and linkup programs for Tribal Lands. The program provides on site training for 29 federally recognized tribes on consumer rights, the lifeline and linkup program for tribal lands, Washington Telephone Assistance Program, brochures, flyers and enrollment forms for Lifeline/Linkup program from the major service providers. The program provides presentations at health fairs, community dinners, pow wows and hosts Phone Bill review clinics.

Collaboration with the other consumer advocates funded by the settlement has developed a Consumer Bill of Rights, training materials, web site, testimony at public hearings on privacy issues to the Washington State Utility and Transportation Commission on behalf of all tribal consumers, proposed changes to Washington Administrative Codes to assist all low income consumers with old phone debt, comments to the FCC on the Lifeline/Linkup program Docket 96-45 and development of a Washington State Citizen Utility Board. More information can be found at <http://www.tcec.org>

Ms. Johnson has participated in National meetings relating to Telecommunication issues for the last three years and has been on panels at the ITTI Doing Business in Indian Country and the recent

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National Summit on Emerging Tribal Economies representing tribal consumers at Telecom Day. ATNI-EDC co-hosted a meeting with the FCC this summer at the Chehalis Reservation. Mr. K Dane Snowden and Kris Monteith of the FCC participated in a town hall meeting with tribal members and tribal leadership, Governors Office for Indian Affairs, Attorney General Office for Washington State, ATNI-EDC, National Congress of American Indians, Senator Cantwell's office and several of the non profits funded under the settlement money from the Qwest Lawsuit.

ATNI-EDC hopes to expand the program to member tribes in Oregon, Idaho, Western Montana, Northern California and parts of Alaska when resources become available. This has been our biggest challenge, to fund the program beyond the Seattle Foundation grant.

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